

REPORT.

The majority of the Select Committee, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as related to secret societies, beg leave to report:

That they have undertaken and performed the duty assigned them by the House, with the solicitude natural to the grave character of the alarm indicated by the Executive upon the discovery of evils lurking in the social constitution of the State, of such magnitude as those described in the message. These evils, the Governor has informed the Legislature, he has detected, in certain secret political associations, in the formation and encouragement of which he has found reason to apprehend the most disastrous dangers to the public peace, dangers which, in his opinion, threaten civil war in its worst form—"a war of races and sects," through the agitation of "the most unconquerable passions and prejudices of the human heart"—tending to eventually poisoning "of the very fountain of public security," by which the Constitution will become "a solemn mockery and the republic a cheat and a delusion, whose very essence is despotism."

The Governor, though not fully informed of the extent to which these secret conspiracies have carried their machinations against the safety of the State, has been enabled to penetrate so far into their wicked purposes as to authorize him to affirm that they "tend to the subversion of the well established and most dearly cherished principles of our government, and to the establishment of rules for discriminating against large classes of citizens, not only unknown to the Federal Constitution and those of the several States, but plainly prohibited by the letter and spirit of each and all of them."

It is not very clear from this affirmation whether it is the rules referred to, or the large classes of citizens that are unknown to the several constitutions and prohibited by the letter and spirit of each. If the reference be to the former, as the Committee suppose was the meaning of the author of the